



Town of Lexington
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The Lexington Board of Health (BOH) is sharing an update on a continuing global public health concern, COVID-19. The Massachusetts State Public Health (MDPH) Laboratory has been testing patients that meet certain exposure and risk criteria for COVID-19. Although the risk of COVID-19 to Massachusetts residents remains low, we are now seeing additional cases in Massachusetts. To date, there has been one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Massachusetts and 12 presumptive cases. Presumptive means that the test is not yet confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Late Saturday, March 7, the Lexington BOH was informed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) about a Lexington resident with a presumptive positive test result for COVID-19. The resident had a mild course of illness and is recovering at home in isolation, along with family members who have no symptoms and remain at home in self-quarantine. The family is not in contact with the resident – they do not share bathroom, living space nor meals or utensils.

Two of the family members are students at Bowman Elementary School. The students are asymptomatic (have no symptoms) and will remain quarantined at home for 14 days and monitored for symptoms daily by the BOH. All Bowman Elementary School bathrooms, classrooms, railings, door knobs and cafeteria are being disinfected to prepare for the opening of school on Monday, March 9, 2020.

We have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lexington Public Schools.
We will continue to take actions as warranted by the evidence in consult with MDPH and are not recommending school closure.

The Town will update residents via the Town website, and social media, as soon as we receive further information.

The Lexington Office of Public Health staff continue to take the following actions:

- Monitoring outbreak information and guidance issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) on a 24/7 basis.
- Participating in daily conference calls with CDC and MDPH for the latest briefings for local health officials.
- Responding directly to inquiries from concerned residents, school officials, and returning travelers, among other stakeholders in the community.
- Closely monitoring a small number of travelers in 14-day self-quarantine who have returned from countries where COVID-19 has been in sustained transmission. All travelers being monitored by staff have remained asymptomatic.
- Closely monitoring individuals who have been in close contact with confirmed cases of COVID-19 and are currently in 14 day in-home self-quarantine.
- Communicating with local health care providers and long-term care to coordinate planning efforts and share information and guidance.
- Participating in regional public health emergency preparedness coalition meetings to share information and planning considerations with public health officials in neighboring jurisdictions.
- Working closely with the LPS Director of School Health Services and the LPS Superintendent to be responsive to questions and concerns.

Disease prevention efforts still include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.

This situation continues to evolve rapidly, and we aim to keep the public up-to-date with credible, science-based information and guidance. We recommend the following resources which are updated daily:

MDPH Resource Page: <https://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus>

CDC COVID-19 information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Contact Information

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